GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4015
ANSWERED ON:27.03.2017
Objectives of Swadesh Darshan Scheme
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Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the objective and salient features of the Swadesh Darshan Scheme along with the extent to which the objectives have been achieved by the Government;
(b) whether this scheme is exclusively for the development of heritage circuit and if so, the details thereof along with the details of projects/tourist circuits developed under this scheme, State/UT-wise;
(c) the funds allocated and expenditure incurred on the said scheme during the last three years, State and year-wise; and
(d) whether the Government has received proposals from State Governments/public representatives regarding the inclusion of more places under this scheme and if so, the details thereof and the status of such proposals?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) to (d): The Ministry of Tourism has launched the Swadesh Darshan scheme in the year 2014-15 with a vision to develop theme based tourist circuits in the country on the principles of high tourist value, competitiveness and sustainability in an integrated manner by synergizing efforts to focus on needs and concerns of all stakeholders to enrich tourist experience and enhance employment opportunities.
Since its launch in January 2015 the Ministry till 28th February, 2017 has sanctioned 51 projects worth Rs.4267.46 Crore.

Under the scheme thirteen thematic circuits have been identified for development, namely: Heritage Circuit, North-East India Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Desert Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit and Ramayana Circuit.

The State-wise details of the projects sanctioned and expenditure incurred under various thematic circuits including Heritage circuit of Swadesh Darshan scheme since its launch is annexed.

Under the scheme, the Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance to State Governments/UTs for projects which are identified for development in consultations with them. The projects are sanctioned subject to availability of funds, submission of suitable detailed project reports, adherence to scheme guidelines and utilization of funds released earlier.

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